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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic God, Sustainer of the universe, as storm clouds gather, we thank You that You are Sovereign, yet no one is too small for Your concern. Forgive us for failing to trust Your love and for our sometime reluctance to have faith in each other. Lord, increase our faith, and give us the wisdom to make more deposits in the bank of love. May we remember to consult You as we make decisions. Guide the Senate today. Lead it into a blessed future as our leaders depend on Your wisdom. Strengthen us with Your Spirit and lead us into the newness of life. We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume debate on H.R. 2691, the Interior appropriations bill. It is my understanding that several amendments may be offered during today's session. As I announced previously, there will be no rollcall votes today, and any votes ordered will be stacked to occur during Monday's session. I reiterate that we intend to

finish the Interior bill sometime on Tuesday. Therefore, we could have multiple votes on Monday to further our efforts to complete this bill.

Also, I should add that over the course of the morning we will be closely monitoring the weather situation, recognizing that the weather will have a great impact both on the business here this morning and over the course of this afternoon and tomorrow. Our schedules will be adjusted accordingly, as the weather worsens. When we finish our business today, we will adjourn until Monday, and that time will be announced.

Today, only essential personnel have been encouraged to come to work this morning. And individual offices, individual committees have made decisions. We will continue this morning, and I would think that after we address the amendments that will be brought to us shortly, we will be adjourning.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 49

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 49 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 49) to permanently extend the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to further proceeding on the measure?

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on the measure at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The measure will be placed on the calendar.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY CASH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 68.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 68) to honor the life of Johnny Cash.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 68 reflects upon the recent loss of Johnny Cash. Tennessee and the world, indeed, lost one of its great heroes. His influence simply cannot be understated in any way. It is felt today, and it will be felt for many years to come.

A country music legend, and one of Rock 'n Roll's founding fathers, Cash's work transcended both generation and genre. But what so many will remember is that he was a man of the people across this great Nation—indeed, across the world, giving a voice to so many people who really did not have a voice before. He captured that not just over one generation but several generations. And that voice will carry on over many generations in the future.

I extend my condolences to the Cash family. I know I speak for many in saying that Johnny Cash is a legend, and his imprint on American music and culture is and will continue to be profound.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 68) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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